AIM

THE BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT

Published by IPAC | Vol 2., No. 7, Nov. 2, 1967 | Single Issue Price 15¢

WORD IS OUT: BREAK HPA

The arrest of Fred Harris is part of an obvious, heavy-handed and unsuccessful attempt to squash the only viable political opposition to the city's policies. While it may appeal to a few bigots, the vast majority of decent white people and all self-respecting black people can only be angry and disgusted.

The AIM Newsletter in its last issue (Vol 2., No. 6, Oct. 17) condemned the concerted harassment campaign conducted against Fred Harris and the HPA. It is our belief that this arrest is another step in that campaign.

Fred was arrested at his home on Thursday morning, October 26, at about 1:30 a.m. on a charge of possession of narcotics and possession of an alledgedly stolen typewriter. His bond was set at $5,000 and reduced at arraignment to $1,000. After his release on bail, while Fred was waiting at the courthouse to be heard on another charge made against him during the July rebellion, he was again arrested for breach of peace. This latter arrest was based on a warrant filed by Morris Sachs, a noted New Haven slumlord exposed in a previous AIM Newsletter, over a run-in between Sachs and Fred earlier in the week.

For several months, letters and phone calls have come to the AIM

cont. page 2

STATEMENT FROM HILL PARENTS

Since New Haven's August rebellion the city government, through its police, has made life even more miserable than before for the black and Puerto Rican people. We are constantly harassed on the street and arrested on ridiculous charges. Even the FBI and a Federal grand jury have been used to smear and harass us. The vice president of the Hill Parents Association was arrested on a robbery with violence charge--and released two days later because there was no evidence at all. And now the police have dragged Fred Harris in on charges of which he is totally innocent, insulted his wife, and tried to terrify his children.

These strong-arm tactics will not keep the HPA from organizing the black and Puerto Rican people, and from building constructive programs to get rid of racism and poverty. This harassment, and the silence of the city officials, only shows us how completely we must change the power structure if there is to be any justice at all.

The city claims the HPA is powerless and irrelevant--then why do they spend so much effort trying to break us? Because they are afraid that the HPA will organize the poor well enough so that they don't have to put up with what's going on in this city.

What happens to the Hill Parents can happen, sooner or later, to any black people--to anybody at all. Fred Harris' arrest is another attempt to discredit the HPA, but it won't work. The black and Puerto Rican people know there is nothing to these charges -- they understand from bitter experience the Gestapo tactics of the police. Black people are being united, not divided, by this harassment. If there are any other decent people left in this city to unite with them, they must make themselves heard now.

The people of New Haven can help. Call the Hill Parents, or call the American Independent Movement. Contribute to our legal defense fund. And tell everyone in this city, from the criminally silent Mayor Lee down, that you are fed up with brutal, illegal police responses to our pleas for help.

In the name of justice, do not be silent.

break hpa cont.

office with rumors that politicians in high places and police officials were out to 'get Fred Harris in one way or another' When such tactics can be used against one of our citizens, none of us is safe.

The harassment of Fred is only one of a series of moves that threatens the political and civil liberties of everyone in New Haven. The election of aldermen-at-large will eliminate the last semblance of neighborhood representation and put the bureaucracy in an all-powerful position. A "data bank" which was labelled an invasion of privacy in the U.S. Congress, is being planned to process information about everyone in the city.

A Grand Jury, investigating claims of extortion lodged against Fred and others (Aim Newsletter, Oct. 17, 1967), has recessed without bringing an indictment. But the harassment campaign went on.

AIM fears that Fred Harris and others in the HPA face repeated arrest and harassment from now until Election Day. When will justice return to New Haven?

CHARLES LLOYD QUARTET

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:00 P.M. WOOLSEY HALL $2.50

ONLY AMERICAN GROUP TO PLAY AT A JAZZ FESTIVAL IN THE SOVIET UNION. JUST RETURNED FROM SENSATIONAL APPEARANCES AT THE FILLMORE AND AVALON BALLROOMS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND EUROPEAN TOUR - INCLUDING PRAGUE, BUCHAREST, WARSAW JAZZ FESTIVAL, LONDON, MILAN AND STOCKHOLM.

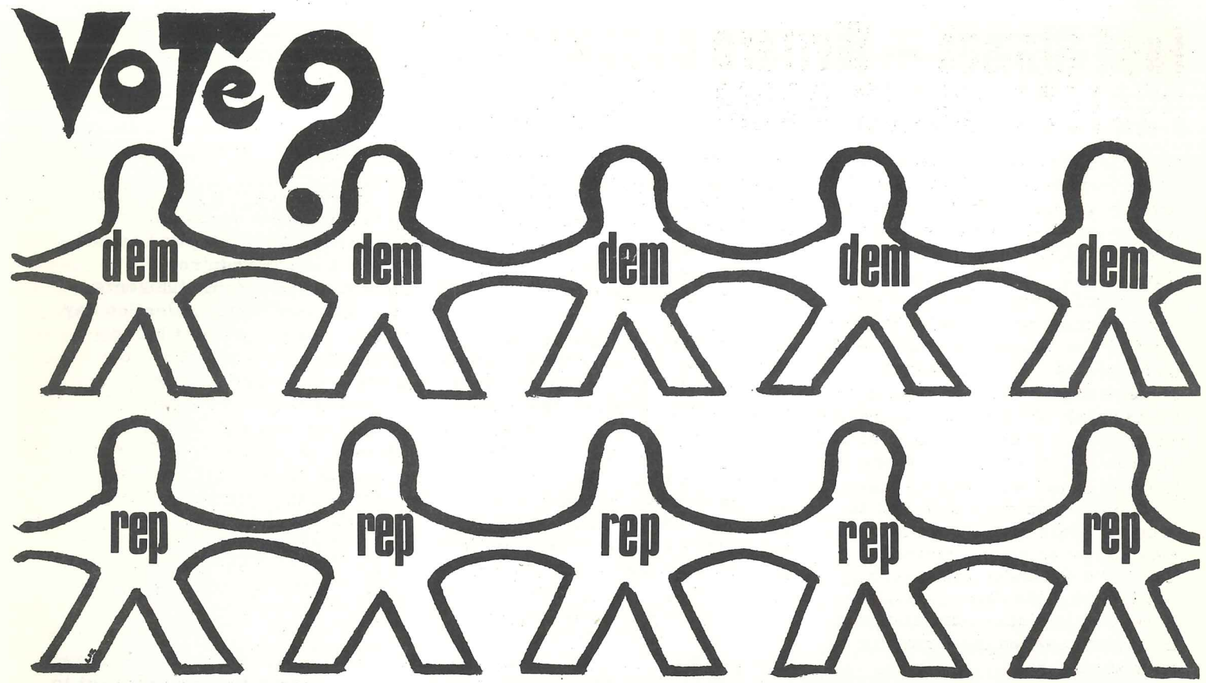
WITH LIGHT SHOW

Tickets: At the door
Elliot's Books, 29 Broadway
Cutler's Record Shop, 33 Broadway
The Music Box, 2100 Dixwell, Hamden

AIM

Editorial Staff
Ruth Beth
Liz Henderson
Linda Prokopy
Peter Rose

The bulletin of the American Independent Movement will be published every two or three weeks.
Letters to the editor are invited.
Subscriptions to the AIM newsletter cost $2 a year, $3 for a sponsoring subscription
Fill out your checks to AIM newsletter and send to
IPAC
241 Orange Street
New Haven, 06510.
For information write, or call 787-0123.



CITY ELECTION

By Robert Cook

Over the past few years, it has become more and more obvious to many Americans that both major political parties are failing to meet the needs of the American people. One is running the war in Vietnam, the other following blindly along while on the side trying to exploit dissatisfaction with the war. AIM is one of the political groups throughout the country created in response to that failure.

In New Haven, both Democrats and Republicans mirror the national parties. The Democrats administer "urban renewal" for the rich; the Republicans grumble but acquiese. In fact, the Republican Party in New Haven can hardly be taken seriously. Like AIM, their candidate for Mayor wants the construction of Route 34 stopped, but not because Route 34 will help destroy the city, add to air pollution, and displace hundreds of people who have no place to go. Rather, because he wants the rats killed before the

cont. page 8

AIR POLLUTION

On October 4, Mayor Lee announced a three-point program to increase the city's effectiveness against air pollution. The program consisted of (1) appointing a Citizens Advisory Committee on Air Pollution to determine if the proposed March, 1969 date for prohibiting burning in junk yards can be advanced; (2) directing the Department of Public Works to make plans for the resumption of bulk trash pick-up; and (3) plans to ask the Board of Finance to provide funds for an additional air pollution sanitarian.

While the Mayor's past and present programs attack some minor sources of air pollution, they completely miss the major and continuing cause of the problem. The City of Los Angeles has already carried out programs including everything ever proposed for New Haven by Mayor Lee. And Los Angeles officials have pronounced those programs of insignificant consequence.

cont. page 8

UBBAN RENEWAL

On October 16, the first of AIM's second series of public meetings devoted to specific issues was held in the office. Harris Stone presented a history of the urban renewal program in New Haven. On October 23, Joan Stone joined him in a presentation of a twenty page analysis of the purposes and realities behind that program, which was compiled by a sub-committee of AIM workers. For those who missed the meetings and the summary of the paper that appeared in the Register on Oct. 24, AIM stated:

"New Haven is being torn apart and totally rebuilt. The voice of the people has been silenced. A small group of political bureaucrats and self-appointed 'leading citizens' - many of whom don't even live in New Haven - make all the decisions The decisions they make clearly show who profits economically and politically from 'urban renewal':

"1) The fancy office buildings and

cont. page 9

Food Stamps — Welfare
PROTEST MAKES GAINS

Commissioner Bernard Shapiro of the State Welfare Dept. has proudly announced to the press that New Haven will have a Food Stamp Program (FSP) in operation on November 1. A representative of the Commissioner made this same announcement to the Social Service Staff of New Haven's Welfare Dept. on October 4. He said that the social workers were to implement immediately the program for people on welfare. Thus, in surprise and amazement, the social workers listened to two days of food stamp "training," and were then told to drop all work (including emergencies and prior commitments) to do the FSP's extensive paperwork by October 20 - the date by which the Bureau of Business Administration in Harford needed the forms for the computers.

A large number of workers raised questions continuously at the training sessions. They had many good questions about how food stamps work, but there was even more concern about taking on a new program (which is, after all, a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture program, and not a Welfare Dept. program), when current programs and services can't be carried out because caseloads are so high. Since the training sessions brought no real answers to the questions, a group of about thirty workers went "through channels," all the way up to District Director Leo Bresnahan. Bresnahan refused to listen on a number of occasions, insisting over and over again that workers must do whatever they're told. In addition, the Dept. of Welfare, in the week following the training, began to use fear tactics with the dissenting workers. Supervisors would call workers aside one by one and question them about their position, sometimes taking notes. The supervisors also watched closely (asking where a worker was going as he was on the way to the bathroom), and stood by while legitimate phone calls were made.

The protesting social workers were then told that they must start working on the forms immediately, or face "action." The Welfare Dept. then had phones shut off and field visits cancelled so that the FSP would be implemented.

Many workers refused to cancel visits, and went on with long standing commitments, despite threats. At this point, these workers were called into Bresnahan's office, one by one, and told that they must agree to do food stamps on the spot And the workers refused, one by one, until 5 were fired (they had been with the Dept. less than the six months required for permanent status), 10 were suspended, 2 resigned and 2 were transferred.

The FSP push was, of course, part of the way the Welfare Dept. always does things -- without communication from above to below, and without regard for the genuine concern some workers have for doing a real job and a good job.

Thus, there were many underlying and long-standing dissatisfactions involved, but the social workers took their position of absolute refusal to cooperate with the FSP for four more specific reasons:

1. Welfare workers are overloaded and presently can't do their jobs properly. Because of large caseloads they can't fulfill Federal requirements for service and can't process applications within the required 30 days. Putting the FSP into effect would have required great amounts of paperwork and is an ongoing job. The workers prefer to honor their commitments of service to the people -- and paperwork, especially in this case, is not service. The workers want more time, rather than less, to fight landlords, get school and winter clothes, deal with utilities shut-offs, get kids back into school and, generally, do what the people on welfare are asking them to do.

2. The FSP as it's presently set up is a political deception and designed to fail. Mayor Lee and Commissioner Shapiro want to point to their accomplishments "for the poor" before election day. In fact, the program is being railroaded through without the welfare recipient's consent, understanding or interest. If people are merely "signed up" without the explanation of the program due them, they can't and won't use the stamps -- though the Commissioner can say anyway on November 1st that the FSP is in effect. The workers refused to be a party to this political deception.

3. The workers want the Welfare Dept. to prove its "commitment to the poor" by hiring grass roots people to do the food stamps job. There are funds available for Title V training programs and the new Career Opportunities Program. There would be jobs for people who need them -- preferably welfare recipients -- and the social workers can do what is supposed to be their job.

4. The program discriminates between people on and off welfare. Those on welfare are automatically signed up without their consent, and are handled by their social worker. But the program is not a welfare program, and other low income people can sign up at neighborhood food stamp offices. The dissenting workers felt that welfare people should be treated like everybody else. Also, signing people up (only welfare recipients) without their consent is unethical according to established social work principles.

The workers who refused to do food stamps also have specific objections to the mechanics of the Food Stamp Program, since the program is complicated and hard to use.

A person receives a card in the mail to tell him he is eligible for food stamps. Every two weeks he also receives an "authorization," which tells exactly how much money his family has to put out for what amount of stamps. Each family qualifies for a different amount and must put up the exact amount on the authorization every two weeks weeks. The authorizations expire on the 15th and 31st of each month. This means that if a family can't get perhaps $50 worth of cash together they get no food stamps -- even if they do have $40 or even $49 which they'd want to cash in for stamps. (Example: a family of six with a monthly income of $360 - $389 must put up exactly $52 every two weeks for $66 worth of stamps.) The cash is brought to a participating store, although which banks and stores had not yet been determined by October 20 If a family doesn't use the program regularly the computer automatically drops them from the program.

There are other disturbing aspects of the program. The stamps themselves look like play money and a person has to announce to the cashier in advance that he is using food stamps. He must separate food from non-food items, paying for food with stamps and other items with cash. He gets vouchers, not cash, for change. Beer, cigarettes and imported items can't be bought with stamps. And, in effect, the program is "putting more food on tables" through an unnecessarily complicated and degrading process -- when adding more money to welfare budgets would be the most direct and dignified way of getting more spending power to welfare recipients.

Of course, many people on welfare will have difficulty in getting to a bank (especially with a large amount of cash, before the authorization expires), and there are no banks in the Dixwell area or in the Hill. There is also nothing to prevent the already high priced neighborhood stores from raising their prices ever higher and higher since the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture is respecting the "free enterprise system" and has not committed itself to watching prices in the stores it will, in effect, be subsidizing.

Despite these objections, the social workers, would have been willing to refer interested families to a neighborhood food stamp office, as to any other community resource. They also were willing to do the initial paperwork if the Commissioner gave a strong commitment to using neighborhood people for the program as soon as feasible. But the Commissioner refused to meet with the workers, and decided to elbow intelligent dissension out of the Department.

After the firings and suspensions, community support for the workers started and grew. There were meetings at which neighborhood groups expressed strong support, and many organizations (including AIM, Hill Parents Assn, Dixwell Legal Rights Ass., Hill Interagency Council, NAACP, CORE, Human Relations Council, Christian Community Action, Legal Assistance Ass.) did what they could to get the workers reinstated and to support their demands for the hiring of grass roots people. There was a large meeting at Operation Breakthrough, attended by 150 welfare mothers and other angry supporters. The mothers shouted down Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, John Harder, who was in the audience - demanding their workers back and voicing complaints about a whole range of welfare problems.

complaints about a whole range of welfare problems. The welfare mothers also called and went down to the Welfare Dept. on Bassett St. asking to see their workers. They were continually lied to, and told that their workers were "out" or "not available." They were also told that service was not interrupted, despite the fact that the Welfare Dept. Administration had just gotten rid of 1/3 of the staff which services the mothers. In fact, 1300 families were without social workers. If service wasn't even adequate with the 20 workers there, it was totally non-existent after the firings and suspensions - but the Dept. claimed over and over that business was on as usual.

With community support mobilized and unrelenting, the Commissioner finally agreed to a meeting with the fired and suspended workers on October 19. The terms of the meeting were not made public, but the workers will be back to work on October 23. It is known that before the meeting a civil service exam was given in New Haven for social workers and "case aides," (a new position) even though such exams are usually given in Hartford. The Dept. has definitely said it expects to hire a number of new workers, and caseloads will be reduced. There was also some behind-the-scenes maneuvering of the FSP itself, so that there is considerably less paperwork. And it is a victory in itself that the Commissioner was forced to respond to an active and aware community in taking the workers back. Hopefully, this group of social workers will continue to fight the bureaucracy in Hartford, and the injustices the Welfare Dept. commits on the people it is supposed to serve. Hopefully, too, the mothers and other community people will continue to exert their pressure on the Commissioner and his administration for more concrete change in the Welfare Dept. They have shown that, despite a very closed door, they can frighten the Welfare Department -- which is used to quiet and passive recipients -- and get it moving in the directions that welfare mothers feel is fitting.

CORRECTION!

Careful readers of the last issue of the Newsletter will note that on the map of draft board areas, Branford appeared twice. One of these Branfords was actually Hamden. We apologize, and we hope residents of the area will be able to figure out which is which

CONFRONTING THE WARMAKERS

By Ken Sharpe

At 12:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, October 17, 500 students remained gathered on the front steps of the Pentagon. Hundreds more remained in other groups nearby. Most sat, huddled together for the warmth provided by their bodies and animated conversations. Some crouched before small wood fires; others milled about and watched. The awesome 82nd Airborne Division troops stood with their boot toes barely touching the front lines of the sitters. The helmets and rifles of these silhouetted soldiers stood out harshly against the brightly lit, square pillared Pentagon entrance 100 yards away. A few students still talked quietly to the troops about the war and the military; fewer still harrangued. Young leaders of the Mobilization sporadically gave information and directions over portable bull horns. But little notice was given to their attempts at organization. The students were tired. It would be a long vigil.

Most of the 100,000 plus demonstrators had departed in chartered buses, cars, and trains. The 'provocations' by 'runaway teenagers' from America's top universities and young adult communities were over. And the reporters -- skilled at underestimating numbers, overestimating 'undesirables,' and relying on official reports rather than visual observations about tear gas and clubs -- had turned in their stories and gone to bed.

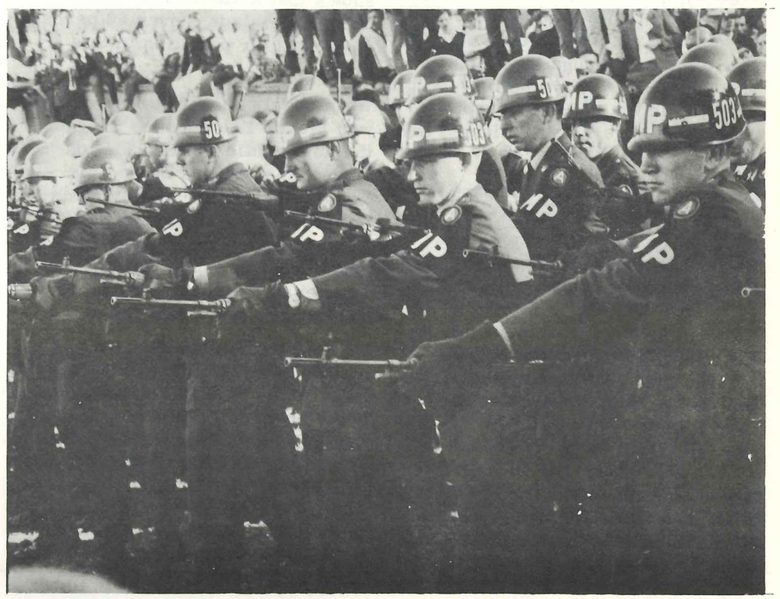
And now the nebulous 'they' who directed the forces in front of the Pentagon made their move. The reporters had gone. The Sunday papers had gone to press. There were few witnesses except the 'pugnacious' young activists -- and who would believe them? (indeed, who would ask them?) With no warning, no announcement, no explanation, the troops began forcing their way through the sitting students. Those seated moved close together linking arms and legs. The troops paused and came at it again using their rifle butts as clubs and wedges to separate students from the mass that tried to hold them. Bull horns spat out orders from student leaders. Lawyers shouted numbers to phone in case of arrest. Again and again the troops were stopped from driving a wedge among the students. A new force soon became apparent: husky, white-helmeted U.S. marshalls joined the fray. Demonstrators were singled out, clubbed, dragged away. Others went limp and were carried. Some got up and left. Others from the back came in as replacements. The students who held each other and resisted were hurt the worst. But soon the clubbing became indiscriminate and the marshalls and troops moved through, cracking hands and skulls in their path. And finally there was a pause. Half the students had been dispersed or arrested; the others had regrouped. Still there was no announcement, explanation or warning by whoever was in charge of the troops -- nothing at all that could be quoted. There was no reason why the Government permit issued by Mr. Van Clive (head of the General Services Administration) which authorized the demonstration to continue until midnight on Sunday (New York Times, Oct. 23, 1967, Col. 1) had not been honored.

The violence stopped. The marshalls stood panting with their clubs still poised. Perhaps the effort was not deemed worth the cost in blood, arrests, and injuries. Perhaps the students had been taught a lesson. The troops and marshalls had moved quickly, brutally, unannounced, and without the cover of reporters.

What can be learned from this incident and from the march itself as a form of protest? If students are going to commit acts of civil disobedience they cannot count on the federal government to protect them as it often did in the early days of the civil rights struggle. The confrontation on the Pentagon steps was a confrontation with the government itself. Federal troops and U.S. marshalls -- the organized coercion which stands behind the law and order of a modern state -- opposed students armed with bodies, convictions, and insults. The power of students as students is weak: they play little or no part in the military or economic system of the United States. But whatever protests are to be made, they must be organized. Scattered acts of civil disobedience are little more than annoying incidents. To make the challenge felt -- however minimum its impact -- an organized act of civil disobedience is needed. This was the intention of many at the Pentagon vigil. But most of the leaders present when the troops moved were inexperienced. There was massive energy and commitment but no strategy. Demonstrators were unclear if they were legally protesting or being civilly disobedient. Conflicting directions were often given by leaders simultaneously over two bull horns. Legal aid advisors only began to tell the group their 'rights' and the telephone numbers to call in case of arrest after the troops began moving in. The group did not share a commitment to a particular strategy -- some were willing to be arrested, some only to sit in until something happened, others only wanted to mill around and watch. Few wanted to plan and act together until the violence had started. One sensed the basic tension within the New Left: the disdain of any 'tight' or 'central' organization, a fear generated by the very bureaucracy they are trying to smash and intensified by the internal fear of some elite taking over and warping their individuality, freedom, and purpose. Unfortunately, however, participatory democracy fails in the face of a well organized bureaucracy or military force that holds wealth and power -- particularly when that force is moving against you.

What do such protests accomplish? Their direct impact on the Vietnam war was, to say the least, limited. It may be that without them the war would have escalated more than it has. But it might also be cogently argued that such protests and militancy encourage escalation as a reaction by the government which seeks to show the country and the world its resolve to pursue its policies. One of the major effects of the demonstration was, however, on its leaders and the participants. The latter found a community with which they could identify, thus boosting confidence and commitment in the minority position they fight for. The leaders came, learned, and became more deeply committed. Activism, Philip Rahv point out, many not produce tangible results, but: "It is of particular value as a school of politics for people without political background and previous commitment -- an indispensable training ground for a new generation of militants that are even now learning some truly concrete lessons about the real difficulties of coping with our social and political condition. This type of activisim, not bolstered by a long-range theory, nor by a program promising either an immediate or ultimate advance, is likely to disenchant many but is also bound to steel others and to throw them into the struggle for good." (N.Y. Review of Books, Oct. 12, 1967, p. 10).

Such demonstrations, militancy, and activism also force liberals to take sides. It is certain that many may veer right, behind the 'neutrality' and 'justice' of law and order. But others may take example from the artists, writers, young parents, concerned citizens as well as from the 'runaway teenagers' from Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Purdue, Stanford and the like. They may realize that the lack of choice offered by our political and electoral system makes a sham of freedom: If law and order support a status quo where freedom to choose involves only one alternative, this is no freedom at all. 'Law and order' can become a mockery when used by the government as a source of power to protect its unjust actions. For those who oppose this possibility, an important option is organized, peaceful civil disobedience which forces a confrontation with the government and a confrontation of liberals with themselves.



Photos by Dave Dickson

election cont.

houses are torn down!

So AIM understands that our problems are local and immediate, as well as global and long-term. Therefore, we had intended to run aldermanic candidates in selected wards this November as part of our effort to build a political movement which will save American democracy.

But as a result of a series of court decisions we are faced with an at-large election for aldermen in which each voter will vote for 30 candidates, rather than just one from his ward. Not only does this violate the principle of neighborhood representation, it contributes greatly to the strength of the Democratic machine and makes a serious Independent campaign impossible.

After considering the situation, AIM concluded that rather than lend legitimacy to this phony election, the only sensible thing to do was to boycott it, and we issued a call to this effect. Although the Register was unhappy ("irresponsible, unconstructive," etc.), events since then have fully vindicated our position.

Court decisions leave open the possibility that no matter what the vote, the minority party will recieve ten seats on the Board of Aldermen after the elections.

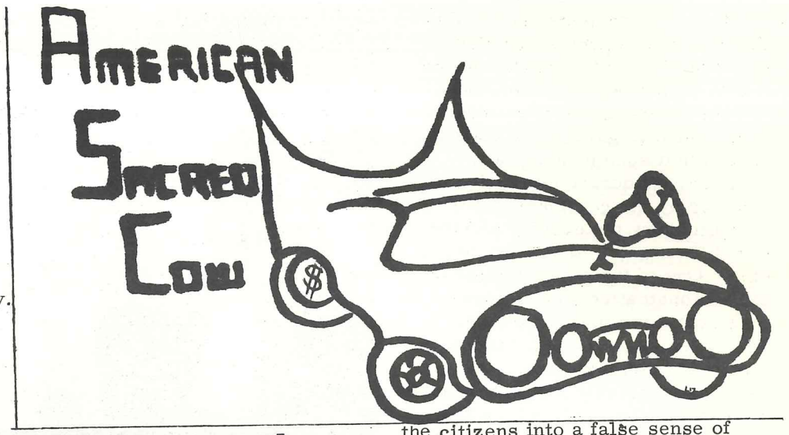
Both parties nominated candidates for alderman who are ineligible by city law. One candidate with a long police record has literally been a fugitive from justice during the campaign.

Voters will have only two minutes to choose from over 85 candidates. Because of the at-large election, special voting machines are required, costing the taxpayers over $12,000.

Neither major party is waging a serious campaign. There is even some evidence of collusion at the highest levels.

There are several lessons to be learned from this. One is that the electoral process is not automatically democratic - we have to make it work. Second, those now in control of the political system will continually change the rules in an effort to strengthen their own position and to frustrate challenges. So a serious political movement must seek other sources of power - social and economic - as well.

Meanwhile, you can contribute to democracy in New Haven by staying home on election day.



pollution cont.

New Haven's programs will likewise be of little consequence for the same reason: NEGLECT OF THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF AIR POLLUTION, THE AUTOMOBILE.

Data collected by New Haven's Bureau of Environmental Sanitation shows that automobiles cause about two-thirds - over 60 percent - of overall air pollution in this city.

We strongly suspect that the reason why Mayor Lee chooses to ignore the automobile in his pollution "programs" is that he and his administration are deeply committed to a kind of urban renewal and redevelopment program which is fundamentally dependent for "success" on inducing ever more shoppers to drive into the city.

To deal effectively with the automobile as the major cause of air pollution in New Haven requires a basic re-examination and change in the entire direction of the present urban renewal and redevelopment programs. The Mayor refuses to do this and distracts attention from the real issue with his three-point program which only serves to lull the citizens into a false sense of security.

In its recent document of urban renewal AIM criticized the existing programs and their purposes. We feel that AIM should demand a new urban renewal plan which considers the basic rights of the community, including the right to breathe clean air.

Air Pollution is far too serious a problem for playing political games with it. Officials in London found killer smogs responsible for 4000 deaths in 1952. The United States Public Health Service states that continued exposure to levels of air pollution now present in many American cities contributes to disease, possibly including cancer, and to premature death.

The Mayor must stop risking the health and lives of the citizens of New Haven for the sake of building urban renewal monuments to himself.

AIM's position paper on air pollution will be formally presented to the public and press on Thursday evening, Nov. 2 at 8:00 p.m. in the AIM office, 241 Orange Street. Copies of this paper are available for 25¢ apiece.

Photo by Dave Dickson

renewal cont.

expensive stores; the huge highways and parking garages are all aimed at the rich suburban people - not the working people of New Haven.

"2) More and more highways are built - not mass transportation. Each new highway dumps more cars and trucks onto city streets. Traffic and driving conditions get worse; parking lots and wider streets replace houses and small businesses. The automotive and construction industries get rich at the people's expense.

"3) Entire neighborhoods are torn down to make room for luxury and middle income apartments. There never has been a plan to replace the thousands and thousands of housing units for lower income people that have been destroyed.

"4) 'Renewed' areas are all alike. They reflect a vision of the city which sees everyone placed in boxes, performing assigned functions, the facts of their lives neatly catalogued in a 'Data Bank'. It clearly is not a city where people can walk from their homes to where they work or shop or play. It also is not a city where people get together to make decisions about their neighborhood - or anything else that affects their lives."

The reaction of those at the meetings and those who telephoned the office after reading the Register article once again indicated the value of AIM presenting its analysis of the issues that affect people's lives. It is of value as a source of information and as a demonstration of the kind of politics AIM is committed to - a politics of real issues, a politics of real popular participation in the decisions which affect people's lives, and to a politics which tries to reach a real understanding of local problems and their solution.

Copies of this paper are available for 25¢ apiece.

A brief summary of this paper, as well as that of the air pollution paper presented Nov. 2, plus an explanation of AIM's boycott of New Haven's at-large aldermanic election is being printed as a dramatic leaflet (complete with photographs.) We hope to get a copy of it into every house in the city, but we need people to do this. Everyone who believes in the kind of politics AIM is trying to bring to the community should be able to find some free time to distribute the leaflet -- just phone the office. (787-0123). The number of leaflets that will be printed will be determined by your response. We will print as many as people are willing to distribute.

RESISTANCE Draft Cards Surrendered

By Rick Bogel

On October 16, the New England branch of the Resistance made its voice heard on a site steeped in American revolutionary tradition: Boston Common. Between 4000 and 5000 people seated themselves on the green at 11:00 to hear the rally speakers. Former SDS president, Nick Egleson, suggested the degree to which the Resistance was a beginning, an essentially middle-class protest which, though begun on the campus, cannot be content to remain there. Noam Chomsky of MIT, author of "The Responsibility of Intellectuals," at once destroyed the "justifications" for our presence in Vietnam and argued for the social necessity of Resistance protest. Howard Zinn of Boston U, author of Vietnam: The Logic of Withdrawal, was briefly interrupted by Polish anti-communist (and rally veteran) Josef Mlot-Mroz bearing the jaunty sign:

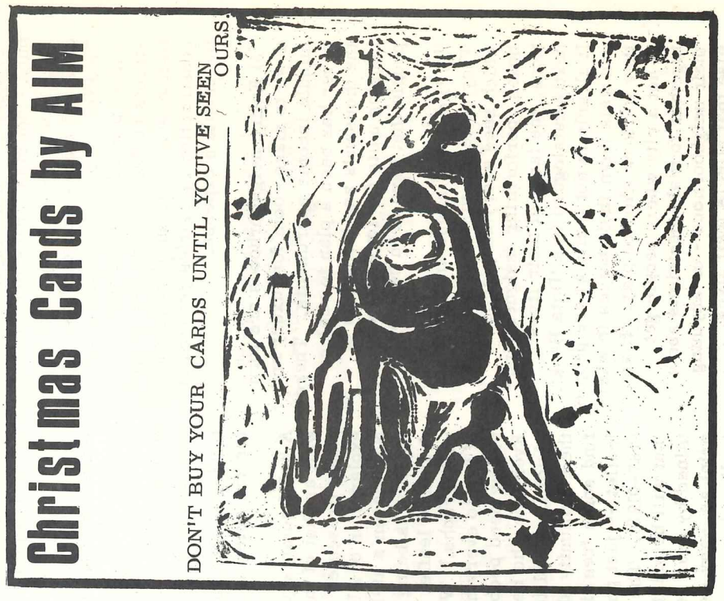
"AWAY WITH ANARCHY IN U. S. A. -- LET'S FIGHT COMMUNISM, RED DUPES, VIETNIKS, PEACE-NIKS, RED CLERGY!" A plain clothesman hastily did his duty after Zinn observed that he didn't remember this kind of disruption being tolerated at the American Legion rally. Zinn's speech was passionate and uncompromising. "Our leaders," he remarked, "have declared their determination to save people everywhere from Communism whether the people want to be saved or not, and even if they have to kill them all to save them.... I don't believe we owe loyalty to a government that lies to us. I do believe we owe loyalty to our fellow Americans who are in danger of being killed by the incompetence of this government."

Cont. Page 10

resistance cont.

After the speeches, the protestors marched quietly to the Arlington St. Church where a "Ceremony of Conscience and Acceptance" was conducted by clergy, divinity students and resistors from the Boston area. Alex Jack of B.U. Divinity School read a moving prayer composed by a Vietnamese girl who had immolated herself in protest. Yale Chaplain, Rev. William S. Coffin, Jr., spoke on the modern role of the church as a symbol of the sanctity of conscience. He exposed the inhuman limitations on conscience and expression which Selective Service System alternatives allow. Michael Ferber of the Harvard Graduate School, speaking for the students, made clear that our protest was also an acceptance, that our "No!" was an even more resounding "Yes!" to those values which the current system threatens.

Finally, the Resistors filed to the altar. Some (67) chose to burn their cards in the altar candle; most (214) gave theirs to a clergyman or to a professor of philosophy who accepted in the name of humanist conscience. There was a prayer, an offering, and a jubilant singing of The New Patriot. (Doors were momentarily opened to admit some dozen Resistors converted on the spot.) Then we went home. We had the evidence of public support and of our own conscience that October 16 was truly but a beginning.



Independent Political Action Committee
241 Orange Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID 2-7/8¢
New Haven, Conn.
Permit No. 89